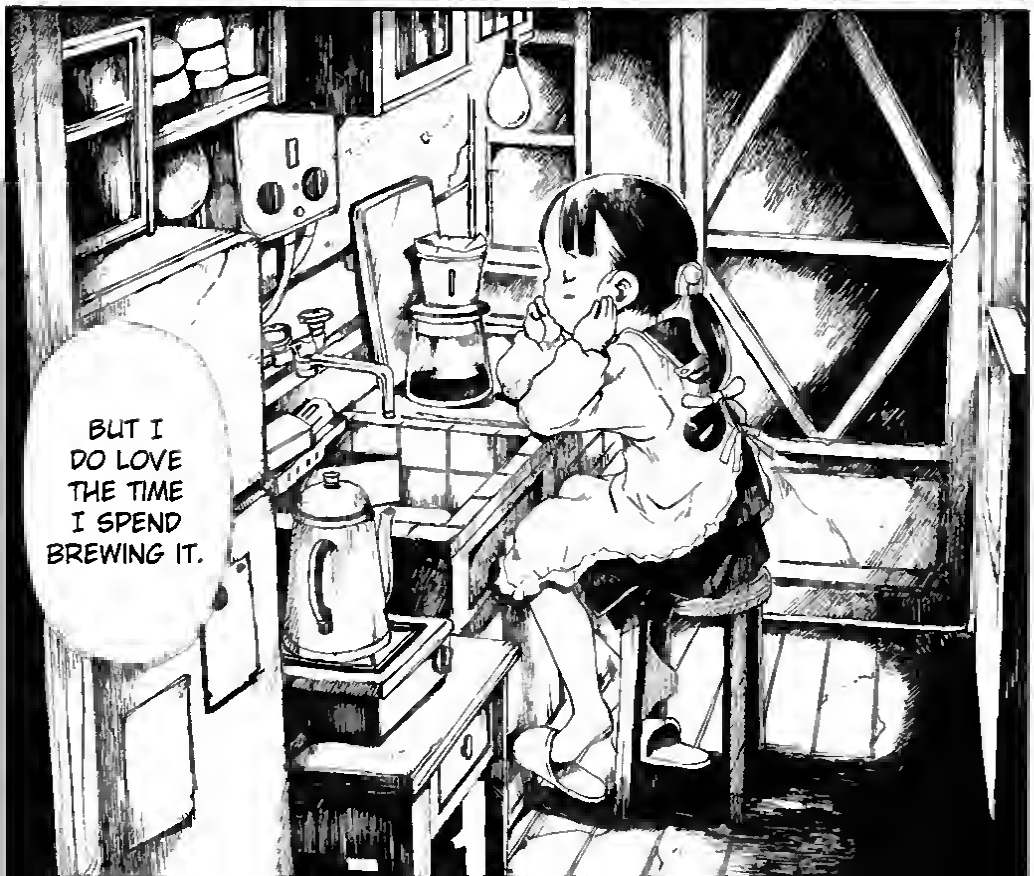
BLUB BLUB BLUB BLUB BLUB BLUB BLUB BLUB BLUB BLUB

I NEVER DID DRINK A CUP OF COFFEE.
BLUB
BLUB

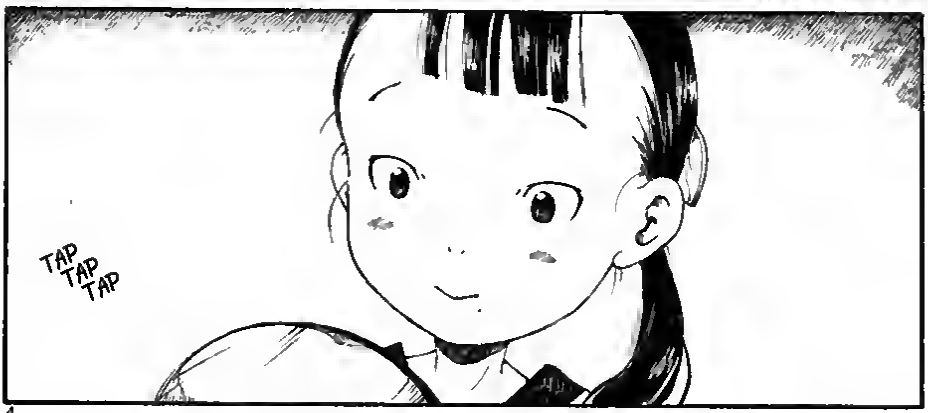

BUT I DO LOVE THE TIME I SPEND BREWING IT.

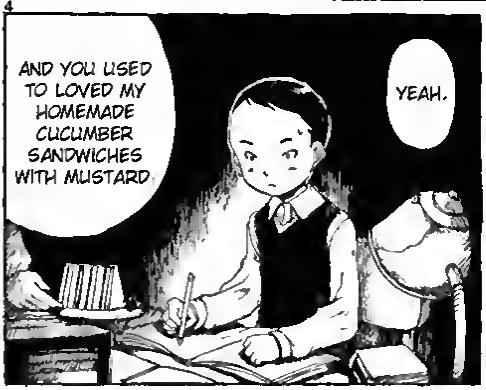
NM
NM
DRINKING MY GLASS OF COFFEE MILK.
HOWEVER, I DO PREFER
THEY USE THE WORD "COFFEE," BUT IT'S NOT COFFEE.
BUT IT'S NOT MILK IF YOU ADD COFFEE TO IT
SUCH IS THE MYSTERIOUS BEVERAGE THAT IS COFFEE MILK.
...
PWAAH
2
HONEY
KNOCK KNOCK
I MADE YOU SOME FRESH COFFEE.

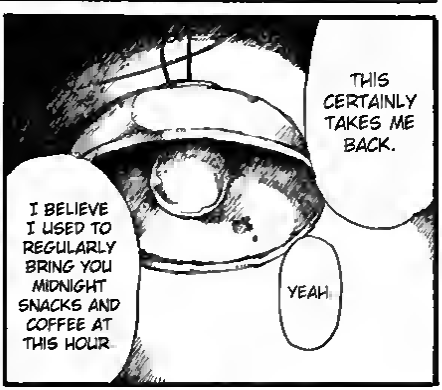
PARDON MY INTER-RUPTION.
CHAPTER THREE
THE OLDER GIRL

ARE YOU STILL SWAMPED WITH WORK?
YEAH, AND THESE DOCUMENTS HAVE TO BE FINISHED BY TOMORROW.
NOW THAT'S JUST DREAD-FUL.

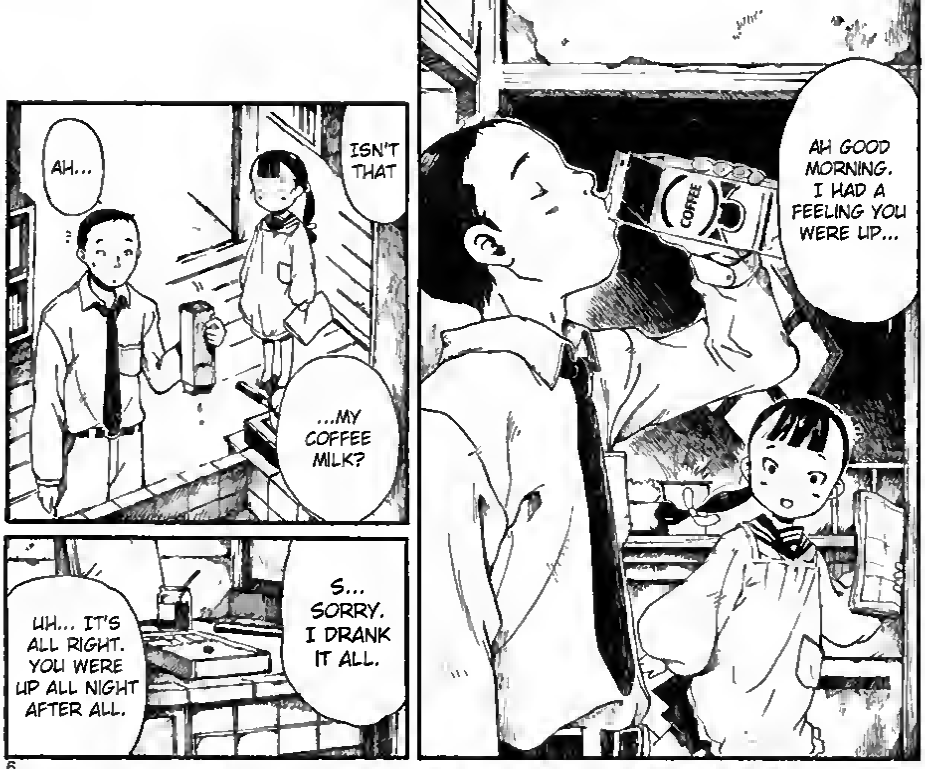
ARE YOU STILL AWAKE? IT'S TWO IN THE MORNING.
I THOUGHT I'D FRESHEN YOU UP WITH SOME HOT COFFEE.
BUT I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU TO GO TO SLEEP.


TAP TAP TAP

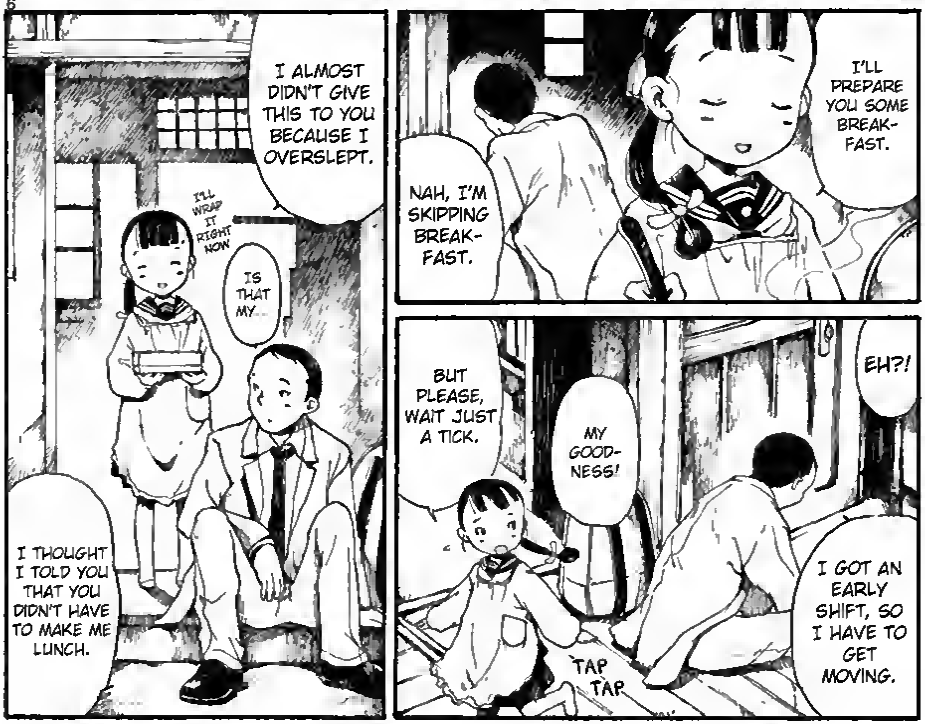

AND YOU USED TO LOVED MY HOMEMADE CUCUMBER SANDWICHES WITH MUSTARD.
YEAH.

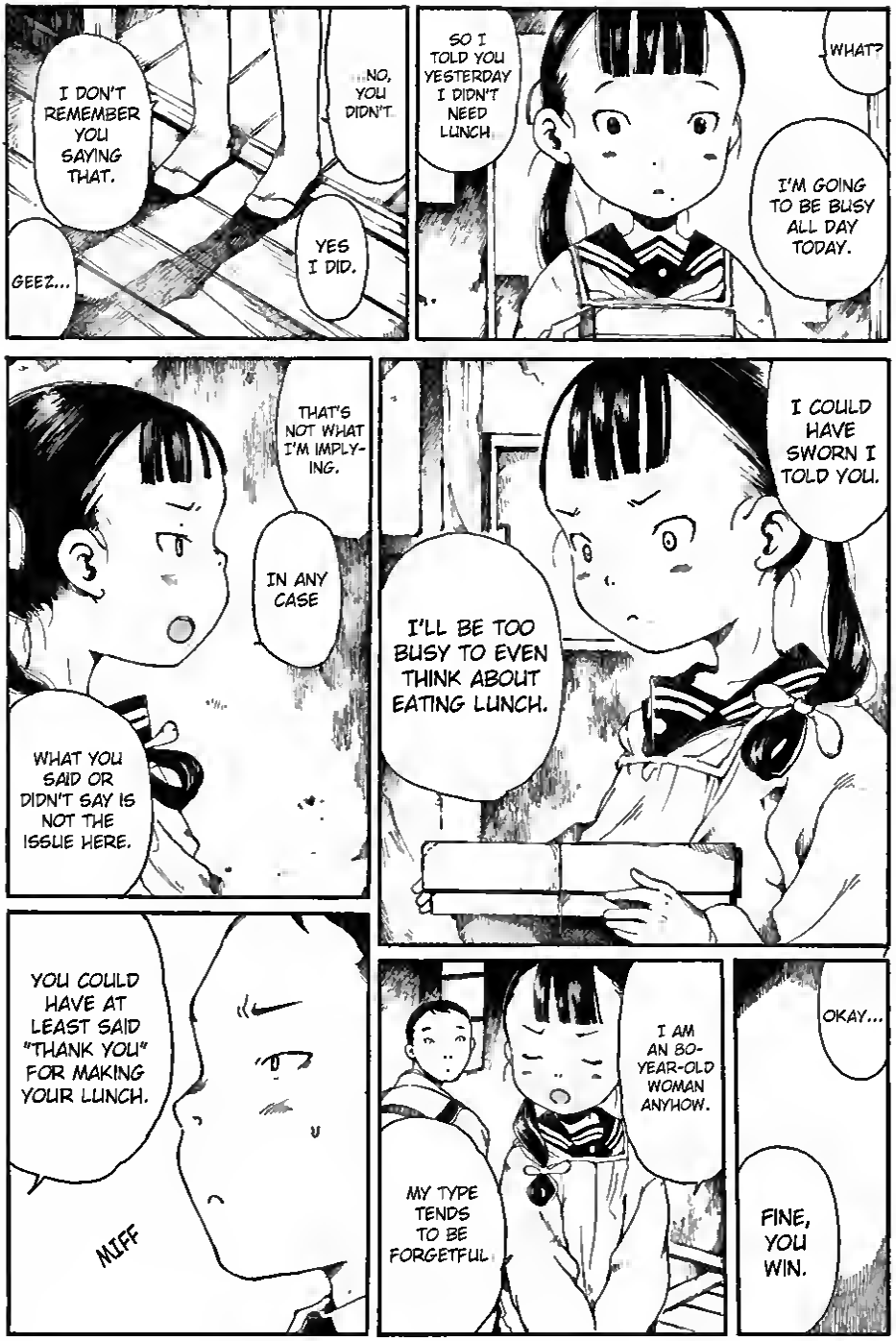

THIS CERTAINLY TAKES ME BACK.
YEAH.
I BELIEVE I USED TO REGULARLY BRING YOU MIDNIGHT SNACKS AND COFFEE AT THIS HOUR.

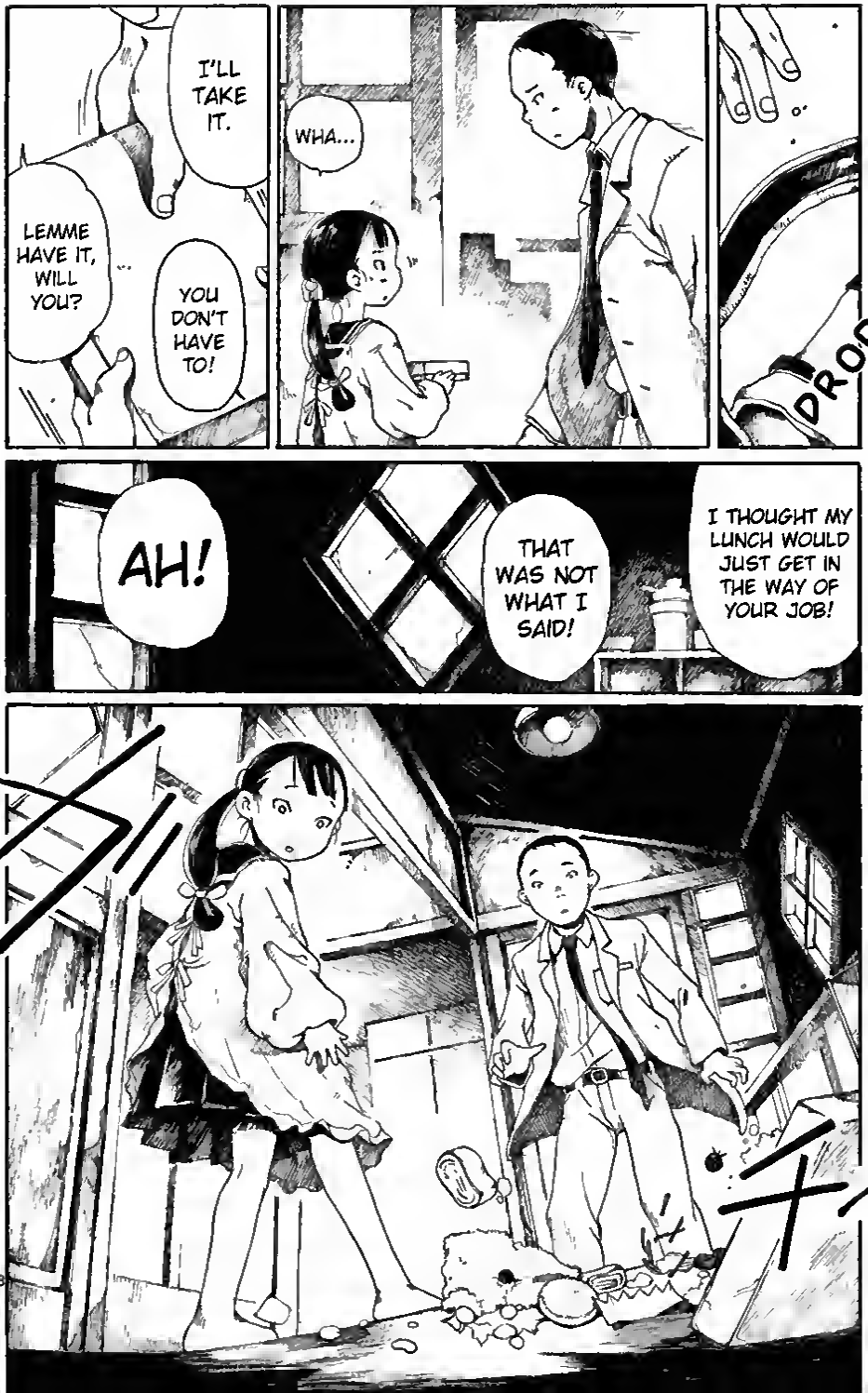
OH, YOU WERE SAYING SOME-THING?
UH, SURE. GOOD NIGHT
I BELIEVE I SHALL RETIRE TO BED
YEAH.
I MADE THEM BY SPREADING AN EXTRA-THICK LAYER OF BUTTER—
YEAH.
CLACK
FWAH
DEAR COFFEE
KCHNK
CHEEP! CHEEP!
GOOD NIGHT, DEAR.

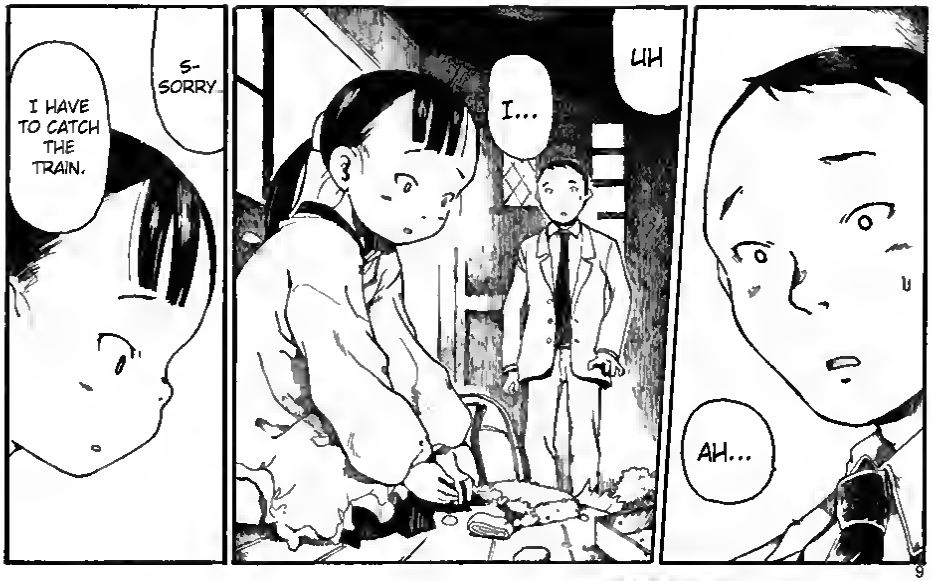

AH GOOD MORNING. I HAD A FEELING YOU WERE UP...
COFFEE
ISN'T THAT
AH...
...MY COFFEE MILK?
S... SORRY. I DRANK IT ALL.
UH... IT'S ALL RIGHT. YOU WERE UP ALL NIGHT AFTER ALL.

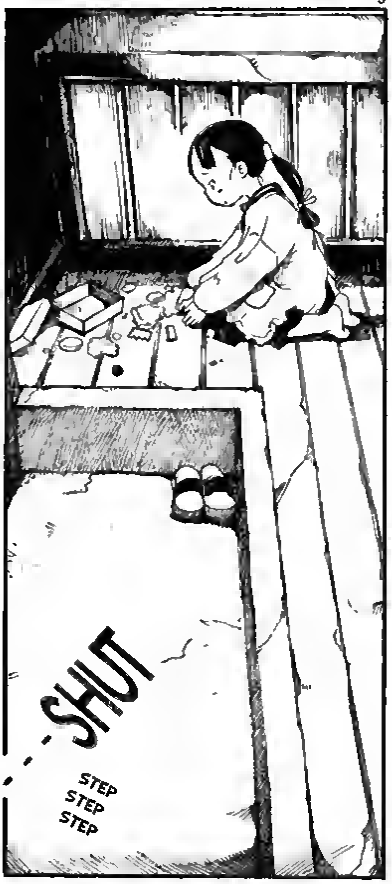
6

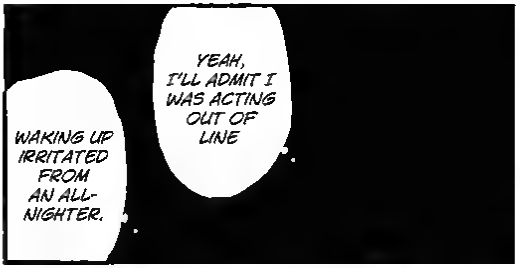

I'LL PREPARE YOU SOME BREAK-FAST.
NAH, I'M SKIPPING BREAK-FAST.
I ALMOST DIDN'T GIVE THIS TO YOU BECAUSE I OVERSLEPT.
I'LL WRAP IT RIGHT NOW
IS THAT MY...
I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU THAT YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO MAKE ME LUNCH.
EH?!
BUT PLEASE, WAIT JUST A TICK.
MY GOOD-NESS!
I GOT AN EARLY SHIFT, SO I HAVE TO GET MOVING.
TAP TAP

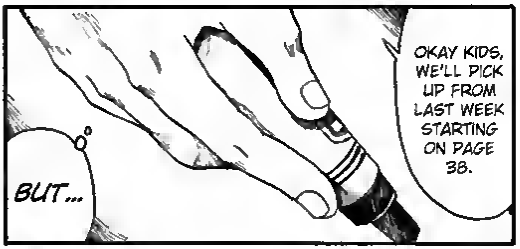

...NO, YOU DIDN'T.
I DON'T REMEMBER YOU SAYING THAT.
YES I DID.
GEEZ...
SO I TOLD YOU YESTERDAY I DIDN'T NEED LUNCH.
WHAT?
I'M GOING TO BE BUSY ALL DAY TODAY.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M IMPLYING.
IN ANY CASE
WHAT YOU SAID OR DIDN'T SAY IS NOT THE ISSUE HERE.
I COULD HAVE SWORN I TOLD YOU.
I'LL BE TOO BUSY TO EVEN THINK ABOUT EATING LUNCH.
YOU COULD HAVE AT LEAST SAID "THANK YOU" FOR MAKING YOUR LUNCH.
MIFF
I AM AN 80-YEAR-OLD WOMAN ANYHOW.
MY TYPE TENDS TO BE FORGETFUL.
OKAY...
FINE, YOU WIN.


I'LL TAKE IT.
LEMME HAVE IT, WILL YOU?
...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO!
WHA...
DROP
I THOUGHT MY LUNCH WOULD JUST GET IN THE WAY OF YOUR JOB!
THAT WAS NOT WHAT I SAID!
AH!
ナカッ!


S-SORRY
I HAVE TO CATCH THE TRAIN.
I...
UH
AH...

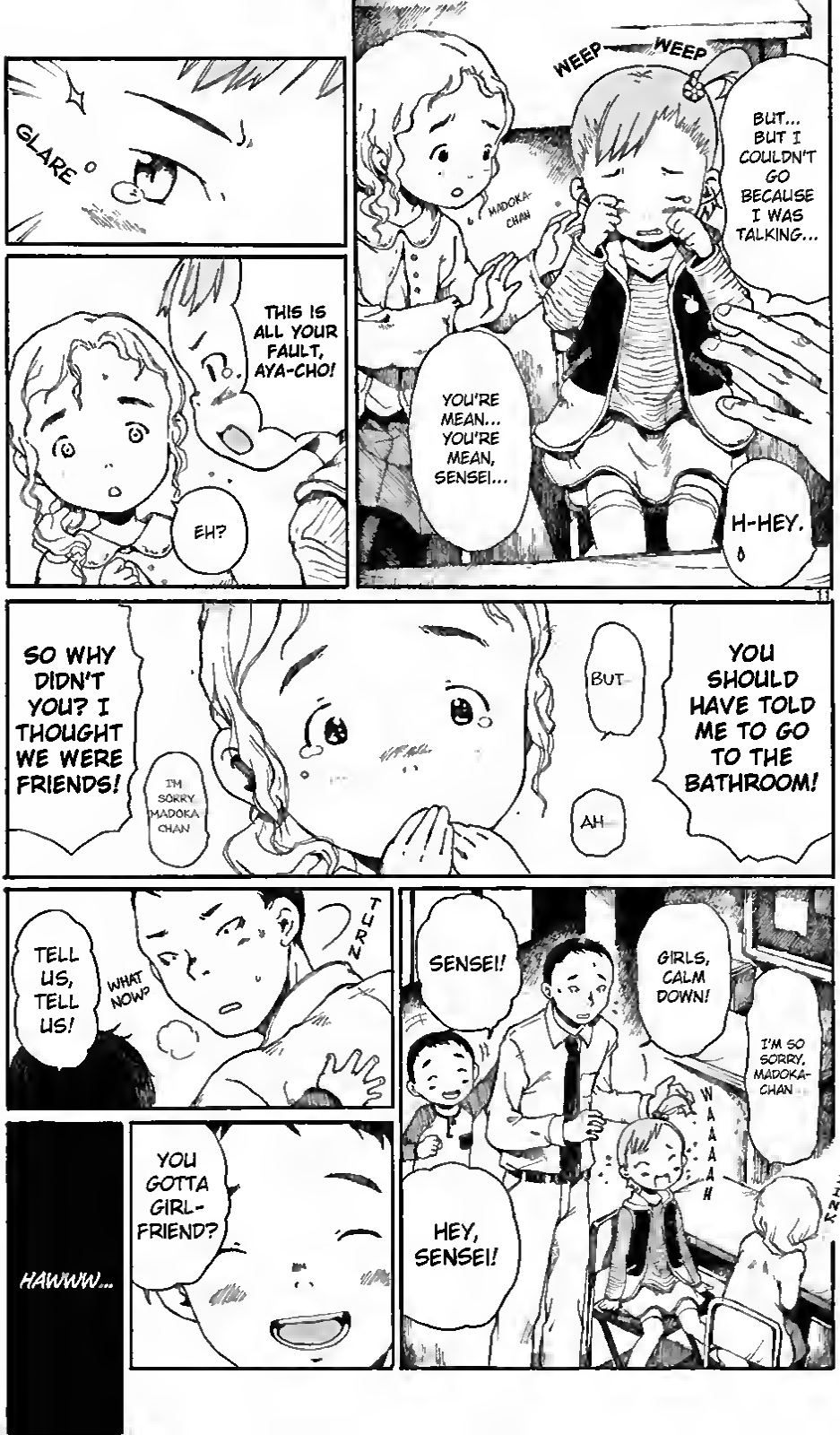

SHUT
STEP
STEP
STEP


YEAH, I'LL ADMIT I WAS ACTING OUT OF LINE
WAKING UP IRRITATED FROM AN ALL-NIGHTER.

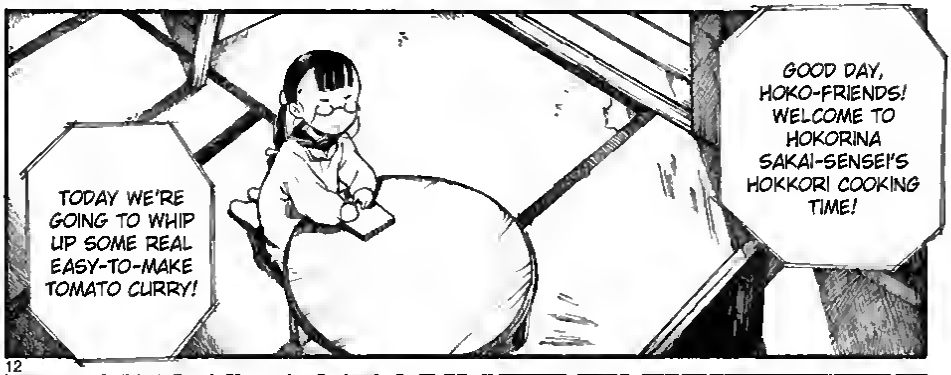

OKAY KIDS, WE'LL PICK UP FROM LAST WEEK STARTING ON PAGE 38.
BUT...

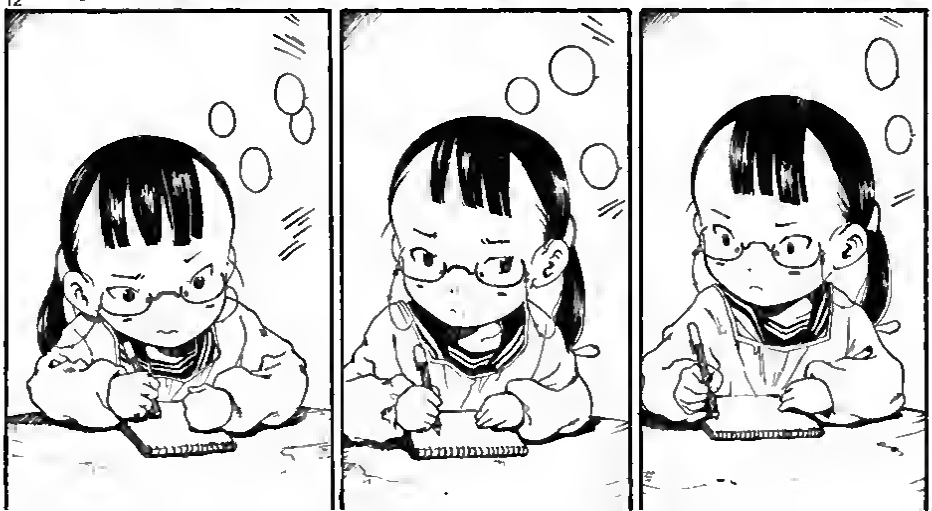
KOITO-SENSEI!
MUMBLE
THE WAY SHE COPPED AN ATTITUDE STARTED IT.
MATH DRILLS

CAN I GO TO THE BATH-ROOM?
ME TOO!
SENSEI!
WHAT IS IT, MADOKA?
HUH? BUT WE'VE JUST STARTED CLASS.
AWW, I KNOW YOU DON'T MEAN THAT, SENSEI ♥
PRETTY PLEASE? ♡
YES, I DO!
WE'VE BEEN OVER THIS ALREADY, SO FORGET IT!
WHY COULDN'T YOU HAVE DONE THAT DURING BREAK PERIOD?
BECAUSE I WAS TALK-ING WITH AYA-CHO ALL THAT TIME.
SENSEI!
CALL ON ME!
COME ON, WE'RE STARTING CLASS.
WEEP
URR...


GLARE
THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT, AYA-CHO!
EH?
WEEP
WEEP
MADOKA-CHAN
BUT... BUT I COULDN'T GO BECAUSE I WAS TALKING...
YOU'RE MEAN... YOU'RE MEAN, SENSEI...
H-HEY.
11
SO WHY DIDN'T YOU? I THOUGHT WE WERE FRIENDS!
I'M SORRY, MADOKA-CHAN
BUT...
AH...
YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD ME TO GO TO THE BATHROOM!
TELL US, TELL US!
WHAT NOW?
TURN
SENSEI!
GIRLS, CALM DOWN!
I'M SO SORRY, MADOKA-CHAN
WAAAAH
HEY, SENSEI!
SHHHHH
HAWWW...
YOU GOTTA GIRL-FRIEND?

Hokkori's Nice n' Tasty
Hokkori's Hot n' Flakey


GOOD DAY, HOKO-FRIENDS! WELCOME TO HOKORINA SAKAI-SENSEI'S HOKKORI COOKING TIME!
TODAY WE'RE GOING TO WHIP UP SOME REAL EASY-TO-MAKE TOMATO CURRY!



SCRITCH SCRITCH
YES!
...!
I'VE WON!
I WISH SHE'D REALIZE HOW HARD IT IS TO TAKE NOTES WHEN SHE TALKS SO DARN FAST.
KRIK KRIK
AND BESIDES, I'M NOT GOING TO LEARN MORE BY LOOKING ON A... "WEB," WAS IT?
WE NEVER HAD THAT BACK IN MY DAY...
SENSEI, SHOULDN'T WE ADD POTATOES?

BUT ALL MY CURRIES MUST HAVE POTATOES IN THEM.
IN FACT, THAT BOY LOVES IT WHEN I ADD HEAPS OF POTATOES...
WE'RE MAKING THIS SIMPLE AND EASY.
NO WE WILL NOT.
MY WORD, SHE'S LEAV-ING OUT POTATOES?
...
14
MAYBE I'LL JUST SKIP POTATOES IN HIS CURRIES FROM NOW ON.
HOH HOH
FLAP
WE'RE ALSO OUT OF POTATOES ANYWAY.
HE'S SURE AS ROOSTER EGGS NOT GETTING ANY POTATOES WITH HIS CURRY!
HMF
WHAT AM I SAYING? NUTS TO HIM!

CLICK
Don't need lunch tomorrow
I WONDER WHAT THIS IS?
HAND-WRITING...?
IS THIS MY...
...
OH...
GOOD DAY HOKO FRIENDS!
I DON'T NEED LUNCH TOMORROW
SCRITCH SCRITCH
OKAAY.
...NO!

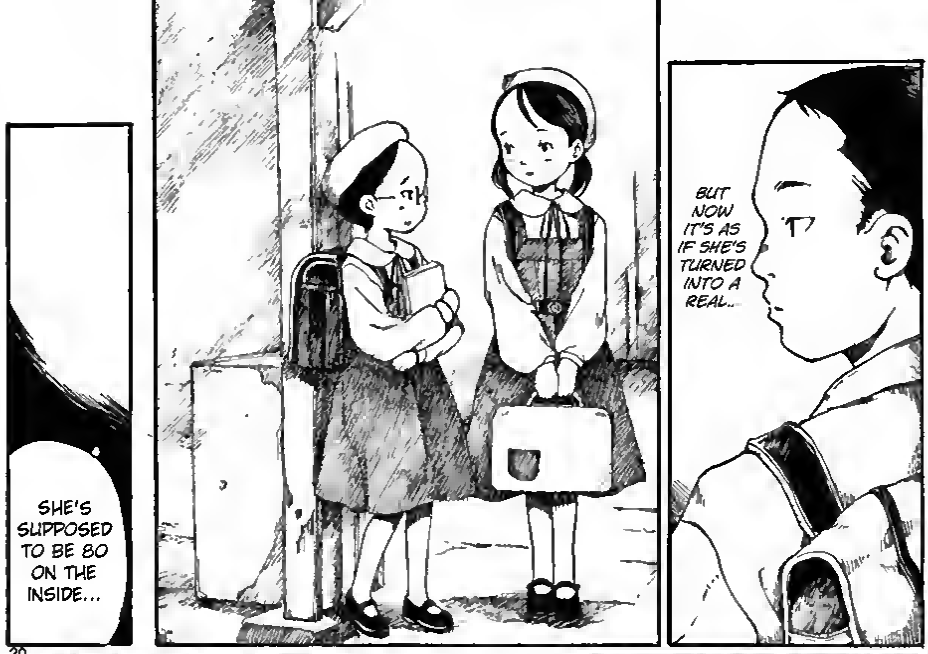
!!!
THAT BOY...
HE WAS THE ONE WHO TALKED TO ME DURING THE PROGRAM!
B-BUT IT WASN'T MY FAULT!
BONG
DRIP
BONG

I'M ONLY HERE

TO SATISFY MY CRAVINGS FOR SOME COFFEE MILK—AND NOTHING MORE.
SEVEN

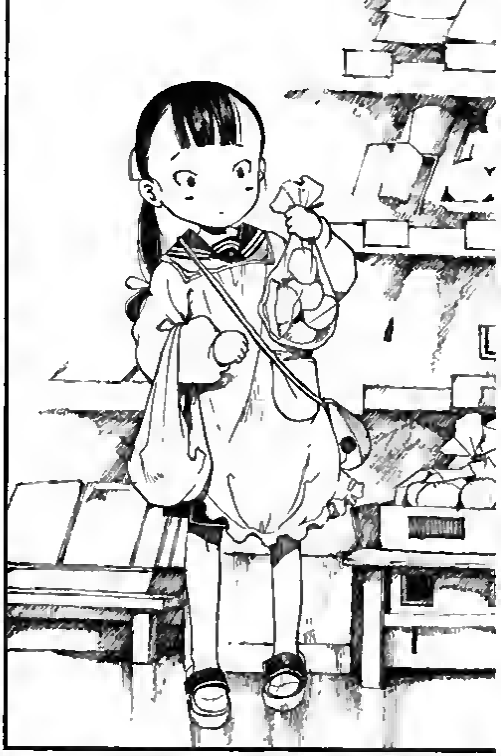
I'D NORMALLY NEVER COME TO THIS TYPE OF STORE.
BUT IT WAS CLOSE BY.
198 YEN
CHINK
BEEP
COFFEE
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
I THINK I'LL BROWSE A FEW OTHER THINGS.
SINCE I RARELY DO COME HERE.
YES.
...
BUT SINCE I'M HERE
CLANK

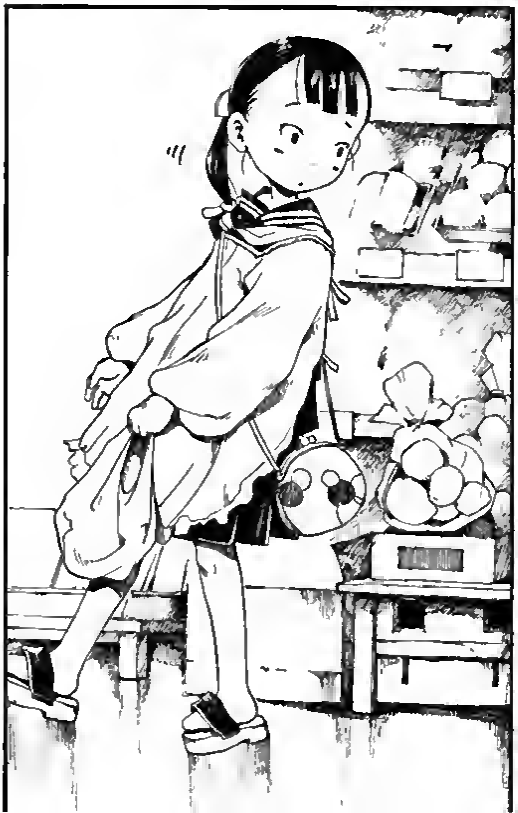
AND MY SUPERVISOR CAME AND REPRIMANDED ME.
CLANK
CLANK
TOOK ME 30 MINUTES TO CALM THEM DOWN.
I'M DRAINED ...
AHHH ...
CLANK CLANK
MADOKA'S ALWAYS BEEN SUCH A HANDFUL.
I SWEAR TO GOD
CLATTER
GIRLS ARE SO COMPLICATED, NO MATTER HOW OLD THEY ARE.
...
HUH...
CLANK
19
WHEN SHE WAS AN ACTUAL OLDER LADY, SHE WAS MORE...
ACTUALLY ..
HAS PEPPERMINT EVER ACTED LIKE SHE DID THIS MORNING?

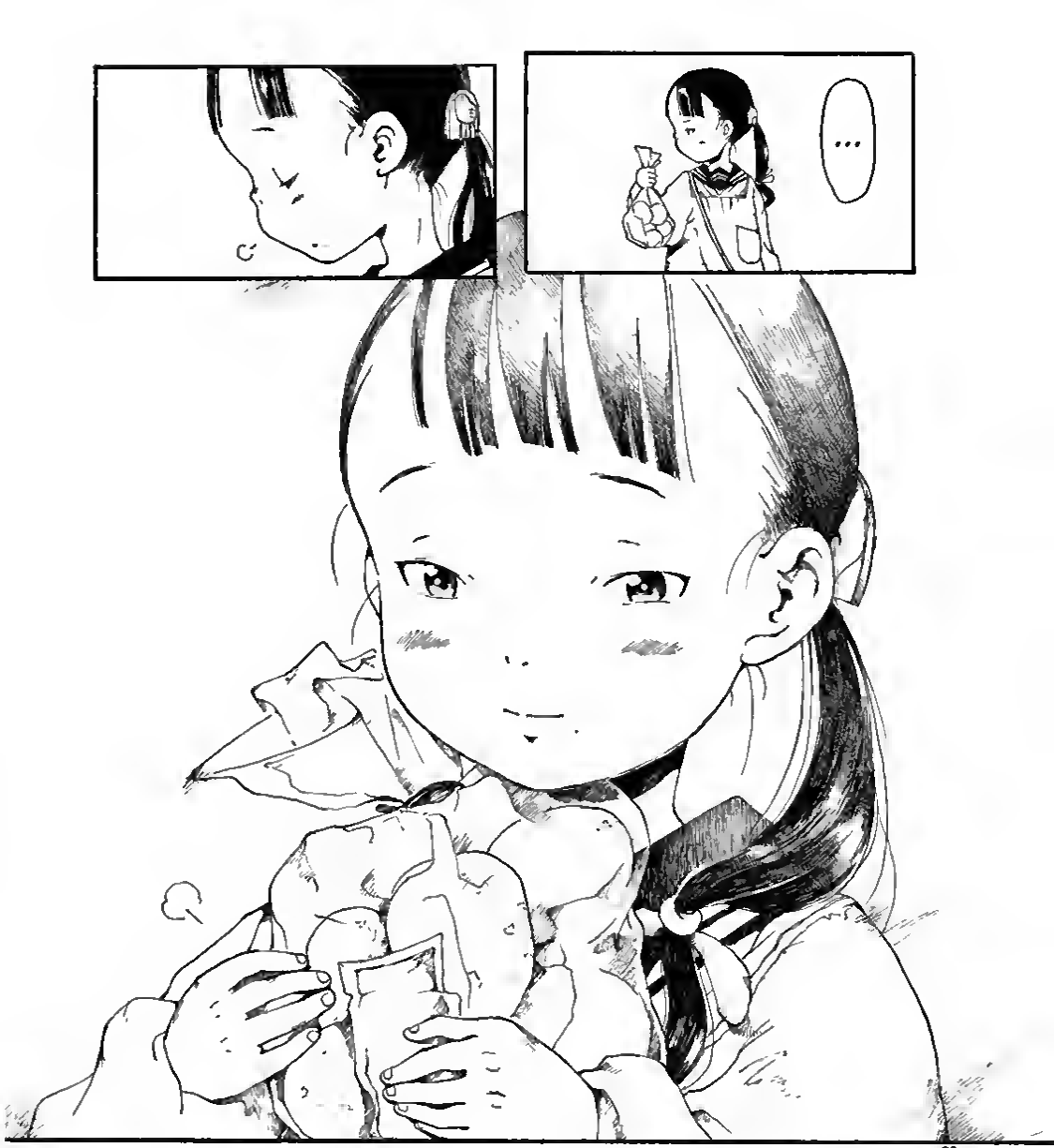

SHE'S SUPPOSED TO BE SO ON THE INSIDE...
BUT NOW IT'S AS IF SHE'S TURNED INTO A REAL...

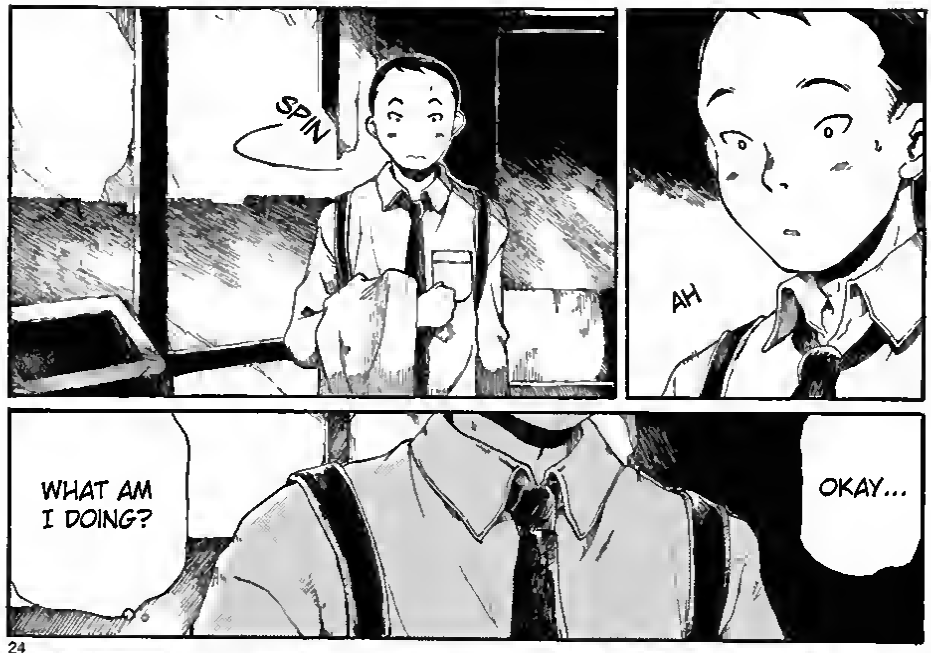
BUT SHE HAS TURNED INTO A KID, AT LEAST ON THE OUTSIDE.
MEANING THAT I HAVE TO MAN UP AND BE THE ADULT.
RIGHT.
NO, I'M NOT TRYING TO SUCK UP TO HER.
BUT I CAN AT LEAST BUY HER SOME COFFEE MILK...

PEPPER-MINT?
AT THIS HOUR?
ARE THOSE POTA-TOES?
AND WHY DOES SHE LOOK SO CONFLICTED?

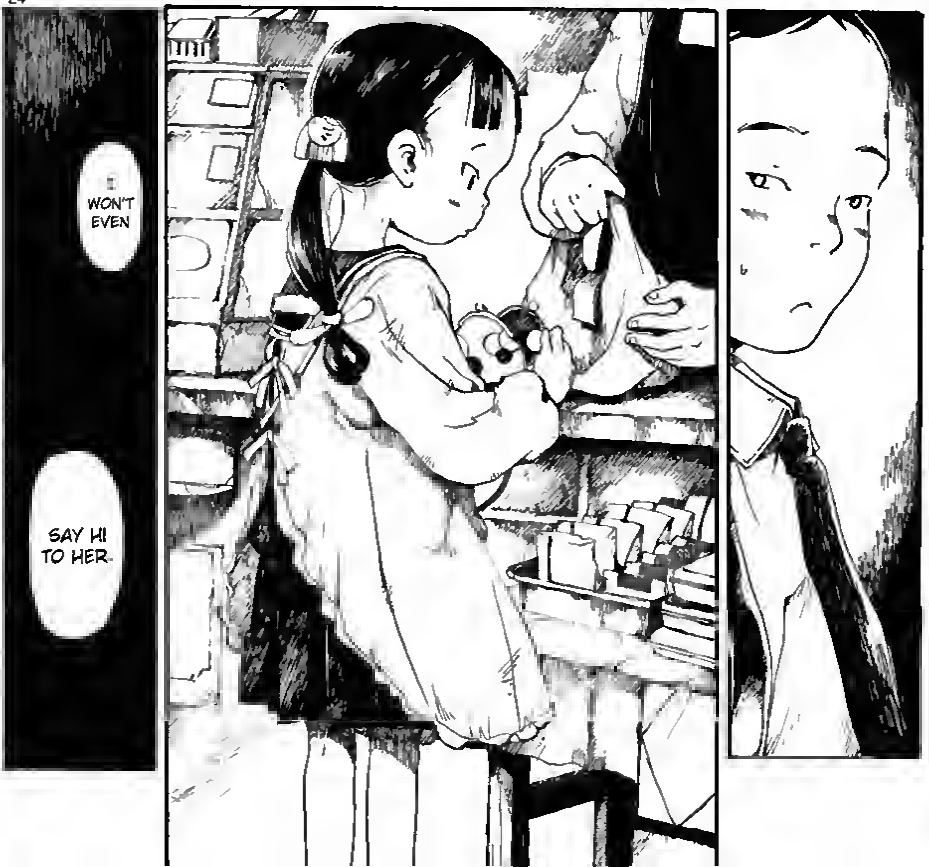






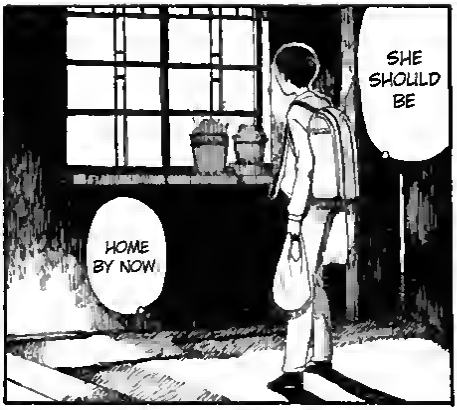


24



AND THEN...
AH.

OKAY.
BEAR COFFEE
RUSTLE!


SHE SHOULD BE HOME BY NOW

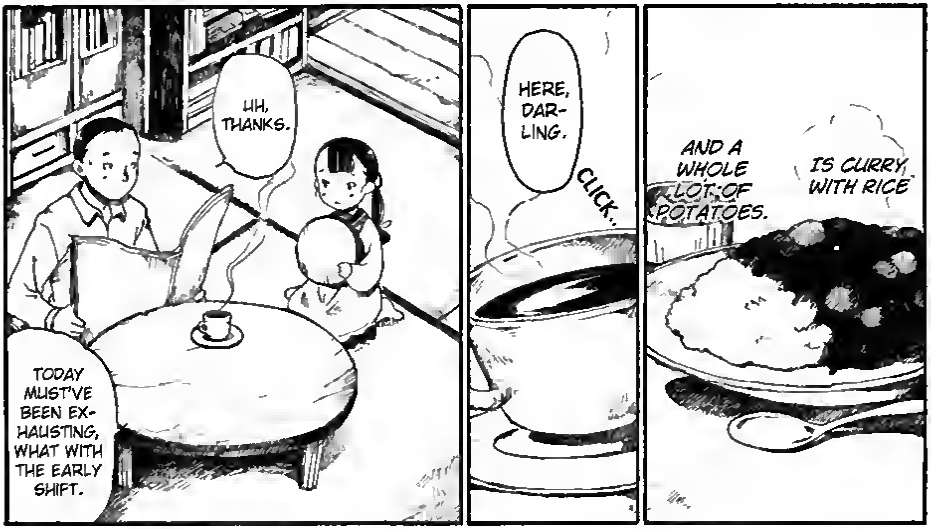
APOLOGIZE FOR SPILLING MY LUNCH.
I'LL JUST GIVE THIS TO HER
AND THEN

WELCOME BACK, HONEY.

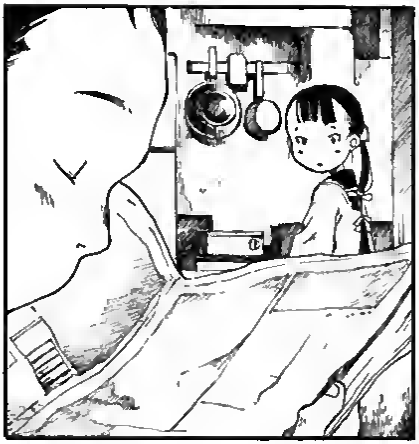
I'VE ALREADY PREPARED DINNER FOR YOU.
I HOPE WORK WENT WELL FOR YOU.

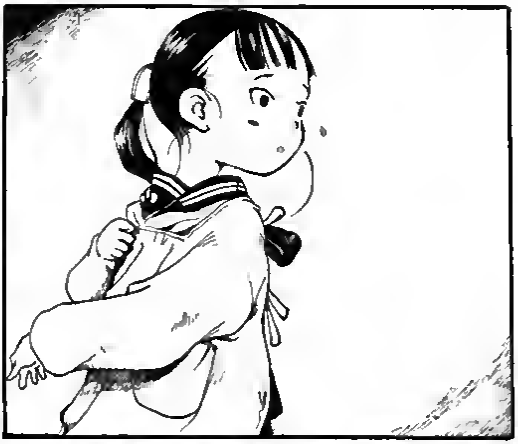
AND WHAT WE'RE HAVING TONIGHT...

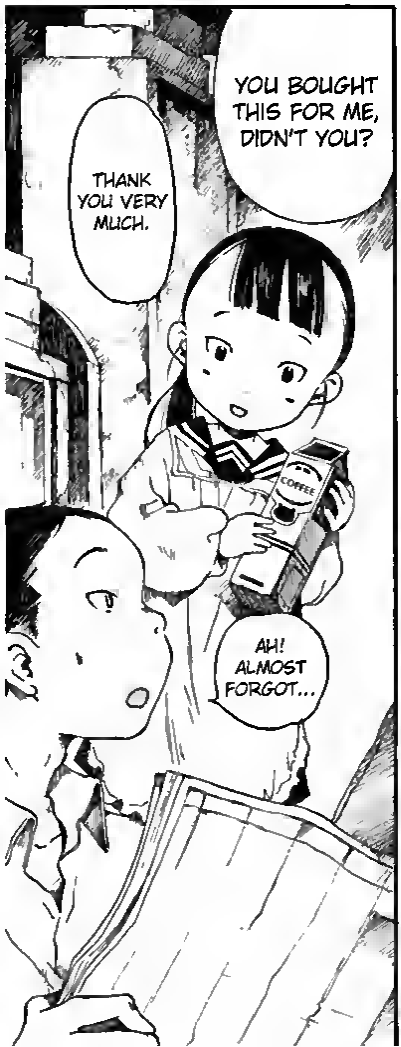
27

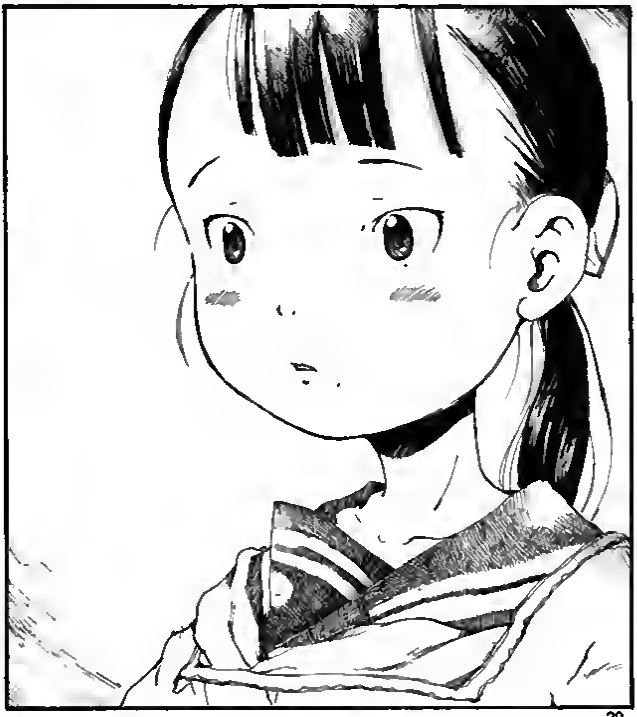

TODAY MUST'VE BEEN EXHAUSTING, WHAT WITH THE EARLY SHIFT.
UH, THANKS.
HERE, DARLING.
CLICK...
AND A WHOLE LOT OF POTATOES.
IS CURRY WITH RICE

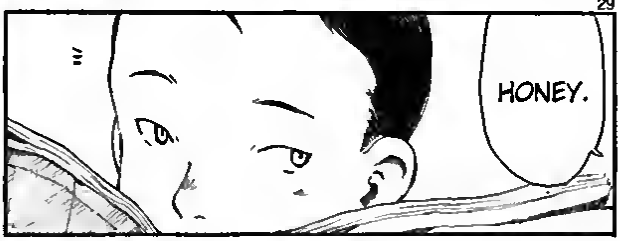
UH...
IT WASN'T THAT BAD...
28
OVER-THINKING IT?
BUT NOW IT'S LIKE I'M THE ONE WHO WAS...
FLAP...
I THOUGHT SHE'D BE MORE POUTY LIKE SHE WAS THIS MORNING.
CLACK CLACK
GEEZ...
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE DISHES.
CLACK...
OH?
I THOUGHT I PUT THIS IN THE FRIDGE...
MILK
COFFEE
RUMMAGE...





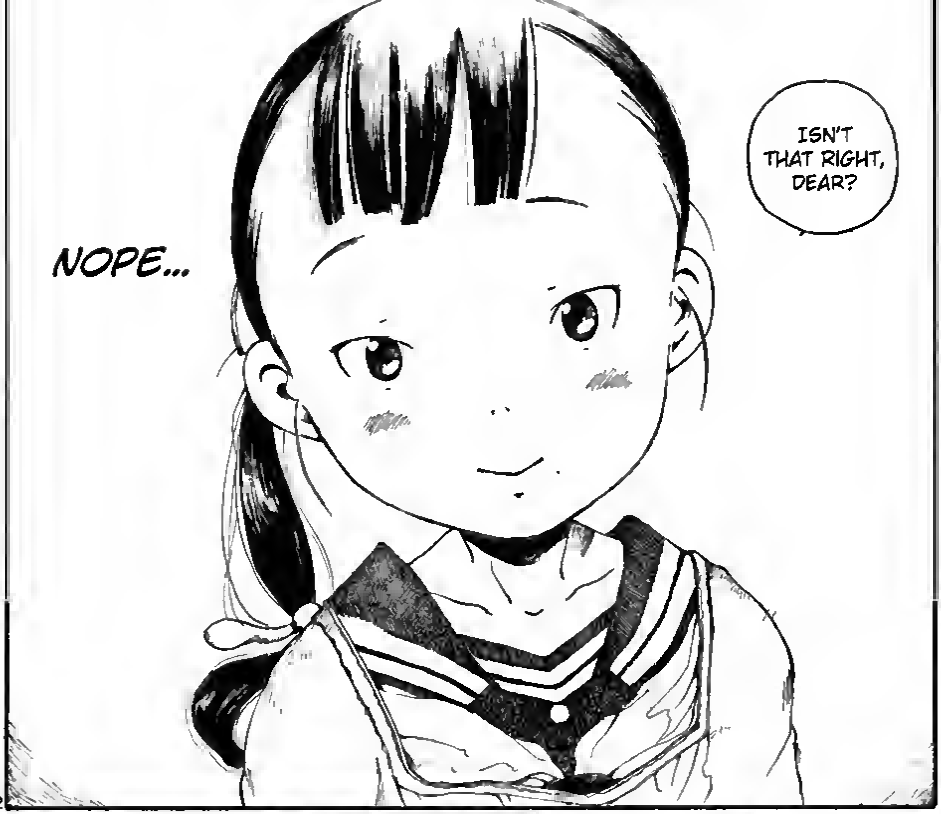

YOU BOUGHT THIS FOR ME, DIDN'T YOU?
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
COFFEE
AH! ALMOST FORGOT...




HONEY.

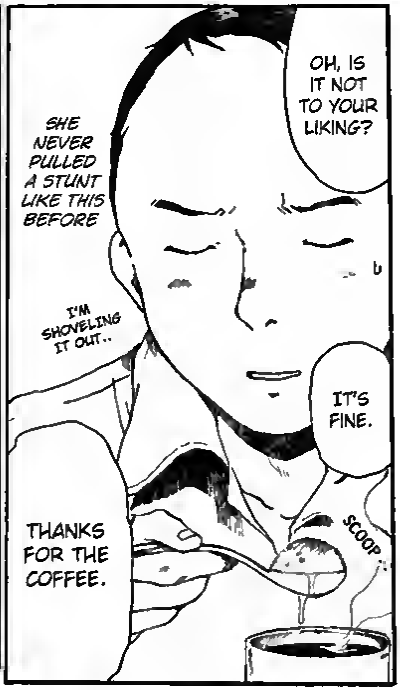
I HAD WANTED TO DRINK SOME OF THIS
NO, THIS PUTS A SMILE ON MY FACE.
BEAR COFFEE
BUT I HAD BEEN SO BUSY AROUND THE HOUSE
I... I GOT IT WHILE BUYING OTHER STUFF
AT THE MINI-MART.
SINCE I DRANK IT ALL THIS MORNING.
AH, DID YOU LAUGH JUST NOW, DEARIE?
NO, NO I DIDN'T.
THAT IT BECAME TOO LATE TO BUY ANYTHING.
30
POUR POUR
BUT THIS ISN'T COFFEE—IT'S COFFEE MILK.
OH?
BUT I STILL FIND IT WEIRD, SINCE YOU DON'T EVEN DRINK COFFEE.

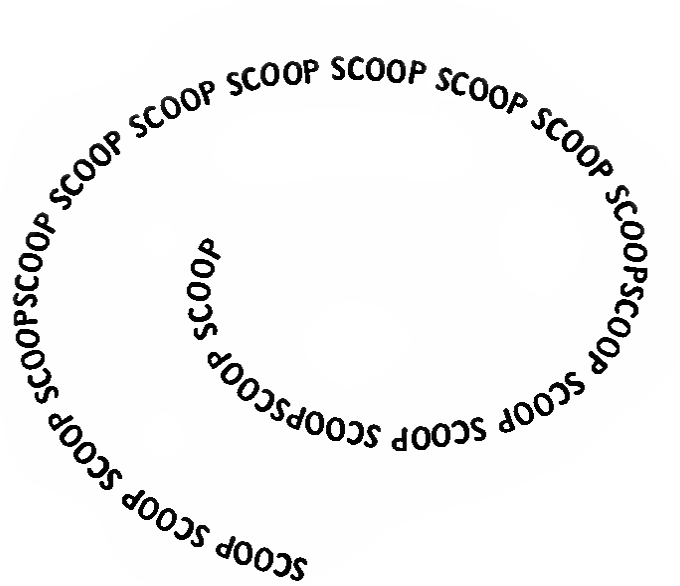
HMM?
SIP...
A LOVELY DRINK IN ITS OWN RIGHT.
SPEWW
...
HON? WHAT'S WRONG?
TEN LITTLE SPOONFULS OF IT.
TE...
JUST SUGAR
...H... WHAT DID YOU PUT IN THIS?
WHY WOULD YOU...
YOU STAYED UP ALL LAST NIGHT, SWEETIE. YOU WERE SO TIRED YOU DRANK ALL MY COFFEE MILK THIS MORNING.
SUGAR IS THE BEST CURE FOR FATIGUE.


NOPE...
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, DEAR?

32

THAT EVEN LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE DISCOVERED A WHOLE NEW DESSERT.
...
SHH
I'M NOT TELLING HIM ABOUT THE NOTE


OH, IS IT NOT TO YOUR LIKING?
SHE NEVER PULLED A STUNT LIKE THIS BEFORE
I'M SHOVELING IT OUT..
IT'S FINE.
SCOOP
THANKS FOR THE COFFEE.



CHAPTER THREE: THE OLDER GIRL / END
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